

Abstract

In accordance with the invention a method is provided to allow the moveable signal path plate of a MEMS switch to separate from the fixed signal path plate and open the signal path. A solid-state switch is provided in parallel with the MEMS switch. In operation, the MEMS switch is used for good signal transmission and the solid state switch is only used to open the MEMS switch. As a result, the solid state switch needs to have a low capacitance so it does not appreciably affect the signal transmission. Further, the solid state switch needs to have high power handling capacity, i.e. low resistance, but it is not required that it have good signal transmission qualities.